



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City



October 2009

DWP OFFICIALS PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON WATER AT SEPTEMBER SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Water became a timely topic at the Studio City Residents Association September Community Meeting with presentations by representatives from the Department of Water and Power (DWP).

DWP's Director of Water Resources, Tom Erb, told SCRA members and guests that water conservation during the month of June 2009 was 14.4 percent while conservation in July was 17.2 percent. As a result of favorable compliance from the community, the lawn watering schedule is currently being reevaluated. It may be possible to move from two to three days a week for sprinkler usage; however, both the DWP and its customers will pay hefty premiums if Los Angeles exceeds its allocation from the Metropolitan Water District, which provides half of the water used in Los Angeles. Water rationing will take place until June 2010.



Richard West, Water Rates Manager, and Thomas Erb, Director of Water Resources

On desalinization, Erb said other sources, such as gray and recycled water, are much more attainable and much more cost effective. He reported the Santa Barbara desalinization plant had been dismantled and sold for scrap some time ago. According to Erb, local sources of recycled, gray and runoff water are drought proof. With global warming, DWP is anticipating the loss of snow pack in the Sierras and is working towards use of other local water sources.

High density development being allowed in Los Angeles is increasing concomitant water demand. As of December 1, 2009, any such developments will be required to conform to higher standards of water conservation than required by the State.

Among the questions posed to the speakers was the use of oscillating sprinklers; SCRA member Sylvia Wong checked the DWP website and reported this type of sprinkler is prohibited. In effect, an oscillating sprinkler functions like an open hose without a shut off at the point of discharge, which is not allowed under the current restrictions.

Rates for water usage are based on two tiers. The tier one rate means no increase is anticipated, while the tier two rate makes up for the loss of revenue in the reduction in water consumption in tier one.

Two additional DWP executives, Albert G. Gastelum, manager of project engineering, and Jeff Bray, district superintendent, provided an update about the repairs to the Coldwater water main break and information on the Hartsook break in Valley Village. Several

SCRA TO HOST CANDIDATE DEBATE BETWEEN KREKORIAN AND ESSEL



The two remaining candidates for the City Council District 2 seat - Paul Krekorian and Christine Essel - will face off at the October 13, 2009 SCRA Community Meeting in a debate that follows closely on



the heels of the September election. The candidates will field questions from the audience posed by a moderator, with an opportunity for brief opening and closing remarks. Krekorian and Essel will compete in a run-off election on December 8, 2009.

The debate is open to the public and will be held at the Beverly Garland Holiday Inn, 4222 Vineland Avenue. The meeting starts with light refreshments at 7:00 p.m. The debate will begin at 7:30 p.m.

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homeowners came with claims questions, which were discussed directly with DWP personnel and Evan Roosevelt, who is covering City Council District 2. The DWP representatives promised to immediately contact street sweepers to alleviate the dust that surfaced after the breaks. As well, the DWP reported it dispatched engineers to check the Coldwater bridge over the Los Angeles River for any damage after the Coldwater break. Several members asked about the quantity of water lost and were told that while the amount was being assessed, calculations were not yet complete. There is a multimillion dollar program in place for both water and power to replace the water lines, many of which are more than 100 years old.



Albert G. Gastelum, P.E., Manager of Project Engineering and Jeff Bray, District Superintendent

For conservation information, visit www.bewaterwise.com.

BREAKING NEWS

MTA/Universal Development

The SCRA recently asked Council member Tom LaBonge about the status of the proposed development at Metro Universal Redline station (MTA/Universal). Rene Weitzer, La Bonge's chief of staff, reported the final Environmental Impact Report is not complete and the Los Angeles Planning Department has stopped work. The SCRA had previously filed its opposition to the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

On a related matter, some members received a copy of Lifestyle magazine in which Roy P. Disney, chairman of the group known as Communities United for Smart Growth (CUSG), said, "We are the only organization, in recent memory, to develop and submit an alternative plan to city planning." The SCRA is conducting an in-depth review of this plan; once the review is complete, the SCRA will submit its findings and recommendations to SCRA members for their comments before the SCRA Board adopts recommendations or takes a position.

The 2009-10 Los Angeles City Budget

The Los Angeles City Council is considering eliminating funding for the Office of Community Beautification. The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) and the SCRA feel this program is vital to our communities and has proven to be a life force for Los Angeles. The immediate savings to the City is less than \$600,000 but the benefits can be as high as four times that amount in matching community funds. For example, in Studio City, two grants of \$10,000 each created two projects valued at \$90,000, which not only beautified the community but put money back into the area by creating jobs. Studio City's two grants were for landscaping the Studio City Library and the Los Angeles City property at the Oasis,

opposite from Marshall's. The grants created amazing leverage by promoting volunteer work; obtaining matching funds from local residents, businesses and organizations; building community; and creating jobs for local contractors. These grants have made it possible for SCBA to improve and maintain derelict City properties at minimal cost to the City.

Request for Zoning Change

A dog grooming and boarding facility is being proposed to replace King's Western Wear at the corner of Ventura and Ridgemoor at 11450 Ventura Blvd. This location needs a zone change in order to open as an animal grooming and boarding facility. The neighbors are concerned about noise and odor and have asked the SCRA for help. SCRA Land Use Chair, Art Howard, filed a letter with the hearing officer stating the SCRA's opposition to this business at this location. The biggest objection is the potential for noise produced by an animal boarding facility sharing an alley with R-1 residential neighbors.

"STARS SHINE BRIGHT" AS STUDIO CITY HOLIDAY PARADE RETURNS THIS DECEMBER

The Studio City Residents Association is excited to present the 2009 "Studio City Holiday Parade: Stars Shine Bright" on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. For the past two years, the SCRA has been a headlining sponsor for the parade, however, this year marks the first year the SCRA will not only be sponsoring but also planning the event. This year's theme, "Studio City Holiday Parade: Stars Shine Bright," serves to honor both Studio City's film roots as well as all of the important community supporters who play a vital role in making Studio City a great place to live, work and shop. Whether it is through educating children, protecting property or helping neighbors, these community "stars" improve Studio City with passion and dedication.

The holiday parade, which draws more than 2,500 spectators annually, was sorely missed by residents three years ago when it had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The following year, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce took over planning of the event, while the SCRA and other local organizations and businesses provided financial support. This year, Studio City's holiday parade was in jeopardy of being canceled again when the Chamber announced it could no longer plan the event. The Studio City Residents Association Board, recognizing the importance of the event to residents, voted to



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(Parade, cont'd)

sponsor and plan the annual holiday parade so spectators can have a local community celebration to kick off the holiday season.

The success of this year's parade, as in years past, depends on the community's support, both financially and as participants. The SCRA is grateful local businesses and individuals have already pledged both monetary and in-kind contributions to help bring the parade to fruition; the SCRA welcomes sponsorships. The parade coordinator is currently soliciting parade entrants, including marching bands, equestrian groups, choirs, dance troupes and decorated floats. To encourage creative entries, the SCRA has added the following award categories: Best Overall, Best Match to Theme, Best School Entry and Best Use of Special Effects - Sound, Animation, and Lighting. More information about sponsorship opportunities as well as participant applications can be obtained by contacting the parade coordinator at (818) 990-0722 or studiocityholidayparade@gmail.com.

The 2009 "Studio City Holiday Parade: Stars Shine Bright" will take place along the traditional route down Ventura Boulevard, between Whittsett Avenue and Laurel Canyon Boulevard. The SCRA looks forward to giving residents and guests the opportunity to gather with friends and family to celebrate the holidays, Studio City's roots and all of the community's local "stars."

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

LA Valley Pride

Saturday, October 10, 2009, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Studio City Car Wash City and community representatives, as well as members of the entertainment industry, will speak in support of making LGBT rights inclusive in society. There will be entertainment and a special commemorative gift for those who attend.

Studio City Branch Library

Friends of the Studio City Branch Library present actress and author, Harley Jane Kozak, creator of the Wollie Shelley mysteries, Monday, October 5, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Harley will discuss her life in Hollywood and her best-selling novels, Dating Dead Men, Dating is Murder, Dead Ex and her latest, An Offer You Can't Refuse. The event is free, but seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. Refreshments are free, and books are available for purchase at each event.

Book Donations: Every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the library community room.

Book Sale: Saturday, September 26, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please bring bags or boxes for purchases.



TO THE MARKET

With fall upon us, shoppers can look forward to all the special celebrations that come with it. First, comes

Halloween with pumpkins for eating or decorating. The Studio City Farmers Market is also overflowing with wonderful varieties of squash, from acorn to spaghetti. The many-colored bell peppers, crisp cucumbers (Beylik Farms), and French green beans (Givens Organics) have been exceptional this season. Sweet and plump tomatoes will be around a little longer because of the cooler summer weather this year. Pomegranates, one of the 14 super foods, will arrive in October, and persimmons will be making their yearly debut in early November.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. Free parking is available at the CBS lot on Radford.

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis

Crimes in Studio City for the month of August:

BFMV	42	(Burglary from motor vehicle)
Burglary	16	(Residential or commercial)
GTA	9	(Grand theft auto)
Robbery	0	(Taking of property by the use of force or fear)

There is both good and bad news about crime numbers in Studio City. The good news is residential burglaries are very low. The community usually averages around 30 burglaries a month, but current numbers are well below that. The bad news is burglaries from motor vehicles are high. Studio City usually averages around 25-30 a month versus the current 42. The majority of the Burglary from Motor Vehicle incidents are occurring in the middle of the night or in the early morning hours. The bad guys love "iPods" and "GPS" systems that are often left in cars.

Over at least the last ten years, Studio City consistently leads all of North Hollywood Division in property crimes with more cars and more homes broken into than any of the other seven basic car areas. Why is this? Why does Studio City continue to lead the other basic car areas year after year in property crimes?

First, Studio City is the largest basic car area in North Hollywood Division. Second, when a car is broken into in Studio City, the victim tends to call the police to make a report versus others in the north end of this division, for example, who rarely report an incident. Studio City's crime numbers are

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(Crime Report, cont'd)

fairly true and accurate. And lastly, many Studio City residents have expensive items and belongings, making the area attractive to criminals.

An important reminder about residential burglaries: remember the majority of the time when someone breaks into a house, the first place they go to is the master bedroom and master bathroom in search of expensive jewelry. These items should never be left in the master bedroom or bathroom but should be hidden, possibly at the bottom of the hamper, in a hollowed-out book or in a safe place in the garage.

Please keep an eye on your neighbors. If you see something suspicious, call the LAPD non-emergency number 1-877-ASK-LAPD. If there is a crime in progress, call 911. If it is not an emergency, please call Officer Mike Lewis on his LAPD cell phone at 818-634-2593.

MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES UNDER SCRUTINY

Evan Roosevelt, field deputy of Council District 2, recently reported he was working with the Department of Building and Safety to determine if the marijuana dispensary at 11222 Ventura Blvd., across from Marshall's, was properly permitted. The property has been inspected, and the operator has been cited, allegedly on the grounds there are code violations. The details of the citation are not known at this time; however, the SCRA has been informed the case has been forwarded to the City Attorney. As more information becomes available, the SCRA will keep its members informed through its News & Notes e-blast.

UPDATE ON THE BASELINE MANSIONIZATION ORDINANCE

SCRA Board Member Barry Johnson attended the Los Angeles City Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) meeting on September 8, 2009 in which PLUM voted to move single family lots having 15 percent grade or less from the designation of "Hillside" into the existing Baseline Flatland Mansionization Ordinance (BFMO). This ordinance limits the Residential Floor Area (RFA), the total floor square footage compared to the lot size, to a ratio of 50 percent. In Studio City, approximately 700 single family lots will no longer be considered "Hillside,"

however, they will be subject to the BFMO, thereby protecting these lots from out-of-scale development.

In addition, the BFMO does allow communities such as Studio City to further reduce the RFA percentage. Currently the Planning Department is in the final stages of preparing Studio City's new RFA for flatland properties at the reduced RFA ratio of 40 percent. This revised RFA is based on SCRA's Overlay which residents overwhelmingly supported at town hall meetings in May 2008 and July 2009.

The Planning Department has begun work on the Baseline Hillside Mansionization Ordinance that covers properties that have a slope of greater than 15 percent. The Department is developing conceptual language that should achieve the objectives that were derived from the public comments received during the first half of the year. When this work is finished, the Department will begin internal discussions on actual code changes, followed by meetings with architects and engineers, in order to ensure the proposed Baseline Hillside Mansionization Ordinance released for public review is feasible. Given all of the preliminary coordination being done, they hope to have something ready for public review and comment by January 2010.

The proposal for a new Hillside Area Map will better reflect the true hillsides throughout the City of Los Angeles, including Studio City. The current definition is based on Bureau of Engineering Basic Grid Maps and major street boundaries and includes lots that are not actually hillside. The proposed Hillside Area map will use better defined data (USGS topographic information) and new technology that identifies the true topographical hillsides - e.g., lots that are contained or are located near areas with steeper slopes (15 percent slope or greater).

This will leave only true hillside lots to be addressed by the future Baseline Hillside Mansionization Ordinance, which will establish new single family hillside regulations to address out-of-scale development in Studio City's hillside neighborhoods.

All maps created and maintained by the City Department of Planning allow for periodic review and revision. Moreover, the opportunity to discuss any possible changes will remain open during the Baseline Hillside Mansionization Ordinance public outreach and adoption processes.

Find more information on the proposed Hillside Area amendment at:
http://planning.lacity.org/Code_Studies/HillsideAreaDefinitionAmendment/CPC_2008_4683CAStaffReport.pdf

SCRA WATCH: WORKING FOR A BETTER STUDIO CITY

Editor's Note: In this space, we will report about things that are broken or problems in our community, including information about who is responsible, what has been repaired, and who in the City made it happen.

EYESORE: Not Fixed. Last month, the SCRA reported on a tractor on the front lawn of a property in the 3800 block of N. Ridgemoor Drive. Since then, the driveway has been barricaded, and the Bobcat tractor is still sitting on the property, causing blight in this neighborhood. Council District 2 has listened to the problem but has not been terribly effective. Call Evan Roosevelt at Council District 2 at 818-755-7676.

PLEASE BE OUR EYES AND EARS. Is something broken in your neighborhood and not being repaired?

Call the SCRA at 818-509-0230 or email: scraboard@studiocityresidents.org

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

Transportation: The SCRA Board voted to support the Studio City Neighborhood Council's (SCNC) Transportation Committee motion not to sell parking garages, parking meters or any other revenue-producing property to private contractors. The motion will be going before the full SCNC Board.

Loteria Restaurant: The Board learned Loteria Restaurant is planning to open in the space where Gaucho Grill used to be in the shopping center at Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvds. The restaurant is requesting a zoning change, including a full liquor license and the ability to remain open to 2:00 a.m. The SCRA is filing a letter in opposition to hours past midnight, live music outside, disc jockeys and the request for an entertainment license. There is no opposition to a full liquor license.

Walter Reed Traffic: Board member Bonnie Kalaf is working with Todd Royal of the SCNC Transportation Committee towards a solution to the drop-off and pick-up traffic flow at Walter Reed Middle School. One possible solution is to create a one-way traffic pattern around the school. This would be much safer for the children and would enable the residents access to their driveways.

Parking District: Residents on Klump Ave at Woodbridge Park are proceeding with LADOT to implement a "preferred parking" district. Use of the park for after-hours partying is an ongoing problem in this area.

ASK SCRA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Email your community questions to scraboard@studiocityresidents.org

Q: Is the sign on the corner of Mulholland Drive and Laurel Canyon requesting contributions to buy the property a legitimate solicitation?

SCRA: Yes. The sign was put on the property by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The Conservancy has an option to buy these lots for open space and is in the process of raising funds for this purchase. If you wish to contribute, please call Paul Edelman at 310-589-3200, ext 128. This property is a wildlife corridor and would be a major contribution to Los Angeles open space.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

What's in a name? We all know whatever it is it will be just as sweet: William Shakespeare said so, more or less. So what's in the name we have for our organization and what is its role? For starters, the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) is comprised of "residents." That focus suggests a specific intent and purpose such that anyone who lives in Studio City will have SCRA acting as his or her advocate. And how is the SCRA perceived? Recently, Daily News writer Rick Orlov quoted a SCRA News & Notes eblast on the candidates. But what really caught my eye was the statement, "The SCRA is among the most active of homeowners (sic) groups and has long prided itself on its independence." That comment says a lot about the priorities of our organization.

Speaking of comments made by others, one of our board members attended a meeting of the LAUSD to provide input on the possible proliferation of digital school marquees and the impact on surrounding neighborhoods. The board chair of that meeting, in acknowledging our representative, referred to the SCRA as "the awesome SCRA." Yet, before I go too far in blowing the SCRA's trumpet, I'll emphasize the SCRA has high visibility and, as a result, gets the attention of opinion leaders and decision makers in the City. Of course it helps that SCRA has more than 1,600 households on its roster, which translates to an estimated 3,000 members. These numbers and the support from our community attract the attention of local officials and get them to focus on the concern of our members.

But the name is not always reported correctly. In the Daily News article, I was referred to as President Andy Dymond (no offense taken). Then, after the last SCRA Community Meeting, which was covered by both KNBC4 and Fox News, I was interviewed on KNX 1070 and identified as Alan Symond of the SCRA. No matter: it all goes towards empowering the SCRA, and, by association, our members are empowered.

All of our members comprise the SCRA. In order to keep moving forward and developing our political strength and influence, we need the active participation of our members. Your time and efforts, even in a limited capacity, are crucial. Those of you who have responded to our recent membership drive and offered to help will be contacted by either me or a board member to see where your interests lie. It could be a simple task to take over and organize, or an opportunity to serve as a coordinating chair: all skills are welcome. If you are interested in becoming a part of the SCRA board, please contact me directly.

Alan Dymond



City Council District 2 Candidates Debate at SCRA Monthly Community Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Agenda

7:00 p.m. Light refreshments

7:30 p.m. City Council District 2

Candidates Debate: Hear Paul
Krekorian and Christine Essel
address questions from the
community.

Meeting Location

Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre
4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City

When entering the hotel driveway, turn left and go through the parking turnstile. Drive to the end and turn right. Go to the large back lot. The handicap entrance is from this lot. Walk to the southwest corner of the lot, and signs will direct you to the Beverly Garland Theatre. PARKING WILL BE VALIDATED at the sign-in-table.



SCRA ELECTION NOTICE

The election process for officers of the SCRA for the year 2010 begins this month. The first procedural step is to appoint a Nominating Committee. Pursuant to the SCRA's bylaws, the Committee is chaired by the President who appoints two present directors. These directors may not be officers or past presidents of the SCRA.

The Nominating Committee will consist of Alan Dymond, President, and SCRA board members Bill Harmond and Tiffany Petroc. On or before November 15, 2009, a notice will be sent to the members setting forth the names of the candidates selected by the Nominating Committee. Any member who wishes to propose a candidate may send the name and relevant contact information by e-mail to SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org or by mail to: P.O. Box 1374, Studio City, CA 91614.

BRING LA RIVER NATURAL PARK TO LIFE

Save LA River Opens Space updated the community at a recent event in which guests were invited "to bring a new park to life in Studio City." The group presented its concept for Los Angeles River Natural Park, a no-development alternative to the current owner's proposed construction of 200 condominiums and 635 parking spaces. The SLAROS concept is currently undergoing a feasibility study. Members of the community are encouraged to get involved as volunteers and to support SLAROS's needs to continue funding its efforts. Visit www.SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org for more information.

